

REMARKS

Applicants attach hereto as a Supplemental Appendix an explanation of the amendments to their new claims as well as an explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c).

The withdrawn claims 15, 19, 22 and 25-27 have been cancelled.

Inasmuch as the most recent amendments were initiated by the Examiner, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

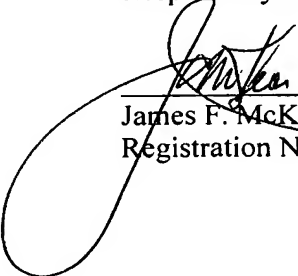
Early issuance of this case is earnestly submitted.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056205.49851RE).

Respectfully submitted,

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SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX

With regard to original Claim 1, the term “said” in line 9 has been changed to provide antecedent basis.

With regard to original Claim 5, “at least one pair of magnetic plates” in line 13 has been changed to -- the magnetic path members -- for proper antecedent basis.

With regard to new Claims 9 et seq., the following changes were made:

Claim 9 has been amended to change “magnetic” to -- magnet -- in response to the Examiner’s objection. Also, see the discussion below with regard to the changes explained per 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c).

Claim 13 has been amended to delete “preferably approximately 1 mm” in response in the Examiner’s Section 112, ¶ rejection.

Claim 14 has been amended to define the magnetic circuit as having a “portion for converging a magnetic flux” in response to the Examiner’s objection. Also see the 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c) discussion below.

Claim 16 has been amended to define that it is at least the magnetic plates that have a specified magnetic flux density in response to the Examiner’s objection.

Claim 18 has been amended reformulated by changing “integrated into” into -- comprising -- and defining the unit as a “reason-molded unit” in response to a drawing objection.

Claim 20 has been amended by deleting “or said magnetic flux concentrating portion” in response to the Examiner’s objection.

Claim 21 has been amended to change “the” axial direction to -- an -- axial direction to obviate a potential antecedent basis issue. The uniform air gap recitation has been amended from “formed between” to -- defined between -- to set forth the gap in a more structural way. A similar change was made to the recitation of the small air gaps as well as making it clear that they are smaller than said -- uniform -- air gap. The term “at least one pair of magnetic plates” has been changed to – magnetic substance assemblies – for proper antecedent basis. Also see the 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c) discussion below.

Claim 23 has been amended to correct dependency in view of the cancellation of Claim 22.

Claim 24 has been amended to delete duplicate language, namely “said magnetic substance assemblies comprise a pair of magnetic plates”.

37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c) Statement

With respect to Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 21, the following elements have been added. The reference numerals in the parenthesis relate to the drawings in this Application and provide the support for the additional elements if a further explanation is not provided:

A. The upper magnetic plate is separated to a first upper magnetic plate (11) and a second upper magnetic plate (12).

B. The lower magnetic plate is separated to a first lower magnetic plate (13) and a second lower magnetic plate (14).

C. The permanent magnet consists of two permanent magnets (numeral 10 in Figure 5A).

D. The first permanent magnet is magnetized in one direction (Downward magnetic field shown in Figure 5A).

E. The second permanent magnet is magnetized in the opposing direction (Upward magnetic field shown in Figure 5A).

F. A first area in which the magnetic field of the first permanent magnet has one direction (area A in Figure 5A) and a first area in which magnetic field of the second permanent magnet has the opposite direction (areas b and c in Figure 5A) are positioned between the first upper magnetic plate (11)and the first lower magnetic plate (13).

G. A second area in which the magnetic field of the first permanent magnet has one direction and a second area in which magnetic field of the second permanent magnet has the opposite direction are positioned between the second upper magnetic plate (2) and the second lower magnetic plate (14).

Consequently, the above elements together necessarily define the claimed linear magnetic circuit between the (permanent) magnet and the protruded magnetic substance portion recited in the last clause of each of Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 21.

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